

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the Office Action that the claims 2-5, 7-10 and 13-14 would be allowable.

The specification has been amended to remove possible hyperlinks.

Claims 15-18, 27, 28, 30 and 31 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention and without prejudice to filing one or more divisional applications.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to change "synthetic" to "non-natural." Claim 1 has further been presented in a manner which should be easier to read by starting each variable amino acid on a new line.

It is submitted that none of these amendments constitute new matter, and their entry is requested.

The specification has been amended to address the objection noted on page 2 of the Office Action.

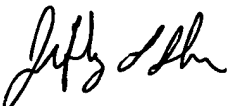
Claims 1, 12 and 19-26 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to change "synthetic" to "non-natural." Applicants intended that the term "synthetic" apply to non-natural amino acids, hence synthetic, and not a natural amino acid which had been chemically synthesized. Thus, the claim has been amended to set forth the intended meaning of the term "synthetic." Applicants' intent is found at, for example, page 6, lines 14-16, which state that "[e]xamples of synthetic acid amino acids include those **derivatives** bearing acidic functionality..." (emphasis added). In addition, page 6, lines 3-13, provide examples of synthetic aromatic, basic and hydroxy containing amino acids. All of these examples are non-natural amino acids. Further, page 4, lines 27-28 and page 5, lines 23-24, provide "synthetic acidic amino acid, e.g., tetrazolyl derivatives of Gly and Ala," which are non-natural amino acids. Finally, page 4, lines 29-30 and page 5, lines 25-26, provide "synthetic derivatives bearing non-natural aliphatic branched or linear side chains C_nH_{2n+2} up to and including $n=8$." These derivatives are non-natural amino acids. Thus, it is submitted that the specification supports the use

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of the term "non-natural" in place of "synthetic" in the claims. Finally, claim 1 has been presented so that each variable amino acid begins a new line to make the claim easier to read. It is submitted that the amendments of claims 1 and 12 obviate this rejection.

Thus, in view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is submitted that the amended claims are definite. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes and are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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